

JUNE

at the

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

JUNE MEETING

DATE: Wednesday evening, June 19
TIME: 8:00 p.m. (One meeting only)
PLACE: May Treat Morrison Auditorium
SUBJECTS: "WILD WINGS" and "THE PRIVATE LIFE OF THE KINGFISHER"

It is a pleasure to present this brace of films which were both produced in Great Britain. Each is a distinguished prize winner and has not been widely shown in the United States.

"WILD WINGS", in color, explores the unique Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge, England and shows the many activities involved in the study and conservation of 122 of the 147 described species of wildfowl which either migrate to this sanctuary yearly or make it a permanent home. It also provides a rare look at many species of wildfowl which have seldom if ever been photographed with such clarity and beauty. This 1967 Academy Award-winning color film in the category of Live Action Short Subject is in the tradition of the great documentary films—a dramatic and stimulating example of film craftsmanship.

"THE PRIVATE LIFE OF THE KINGFISHER", a production of BBC-TV's Natural History Unit, also in color, traces the life cycle of a bird found throughout the world, the kingfisher.

It follows a pair of birds through the year—from mating season, through nesting, rearing their young until they are capable of taking care of themselves.

They are shown in sunshine and in snow, above the water and below. It is one of the most intimate and detailed studies of a wild bird ever filmed—done with a thoroughness and ingenuity that leave the viewer not only fully informed but completely captivated.

The film was selected by the National Audubon Society for showing at its 1967 convention in Atlantic City. Of it, Mr. W. E. Gowan, Director of the Society, commented: "A fantastic production—surely the most incredible natural history photog-

raphy that I have ever viewed. Highly recommended to the generalist or to the specialist".

As indicated, there is one showing only at 8:00 p.m. on a "first come first served" basis. Your 1968 membership card is your admission. In case of a capacity crowd, late-comers will be invited to see the current sky show in Morrison Planetarium at no charge.

MORRISON PLANETARIUM

"ICARUS", a singularly topical sky show, continues in the Theatre of the Stars through June 30. It is a study of the giant asteroid which, on June 15 of this year, will pass within four million miles of Mother Earth.

Performances daily at 2:00 p.m. with evening shows, Wednesday through Sunday at 8:30. Extra matinees, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, at 3:30. The Planetarium is closed Monday and Tuesday nights. Admission: Adults, \$1.00. Children, service personnel and students with card, 50c.

MORRISON AUDITORIUM

"THE SEA OF CORTEZ", an hour-long documentary film in color, photographed in and around the Gulf of California by Academy scientists, is shown exclusively on Saturdays and Sundays at 12:45, 2:15 and 3:45 p.m. Admission is the same as that for Morrison Planetarium (see above).

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

"A WALK THROUGH THE REDWOODS", color enlargements of photographs by Mr. Howard King, made in the major redwood parks which the Save-The-Redwoods League helped to establish. These 75 pictures will remain long in your memory. Continues in Lovell White Hall of Man and Nature through the month of September.

From the Academy Collections: "GLASS SPONGES" from the collections in the Department of Invertebrate Zoology. Skeletal remains of *Hexactinellida* on view in the Main Foyer, Science Museum. Both extraordinary and unbelievable. Continues through June.

NEWS and NOTES

IN A TIME of stress with the news of the world generally hard-to-take and disenchanting, it was a pleasant relief on April 9 to see a biological news item given first-class attention in the newspapers and on radio and television. The subject? A mass migration of painted lady butterflies (*Vanessa cardui*),

the path of which, perhaps for the first time in history, passed directly over the San Francisco Bay Area moving in a northeasterly direction. There was excitement across the city and the Academy's switchboard was lit up by a host of butterfly watchers with inquiries and observations directed to the Department of Entomology. With this widespread interest in mind, an appeal was made through the various media by Dr. Edward S. Ross, Curator of the Department, for people to write or telephone the CAS as to the actions and locations of the flame-colored, white-



spotted insects. The reaction was splendid, and thanks to the cooperation of the hundreds of respondents, it became apparent that the migration had originated in the arid regions of the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico. Migrant butterflies were reported as far to the south as Kino Bay in Mexico and as far north as Medford, Oregon. Skiers in various localities in the Sierra Nevada observed them as high as eight to ten thousand feet. There were notes on the speed traveled (usually about nine miles per hour), stopovers devoted to feeding, and egg-laying—all of which are of interest to entomologists.

A map was established in the Entomology Department and the information plotted thereon. This will undoubtedly make possible a scientific report which could only have been possible through the enthusiasm of the wide range of the observers.

It is interesting to note that the first recorded migration of this most widespread butterfly in the world crossed Milan, Italy, in 1272. Since then it has been established that spring mass movements of painted ladies from desert breeding centers are a universal phenomenon which occur periodically, the reason for which has not been clearly established.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE San Francisco Institute of Animal Behavior, representing the Academy, the San Francisco Zoological Society, and San Francisco State College, and the Faculty Program Center of the latter, sponsored a gathering

of scientists May 9 through 11 for a symposium entitled "Both Sides of the Railings". The three-day session was held at the Sheraton-Palace Hotel and a diverse group of papers were presented by nationally and internationally known experts in the field of animal behavior.

THE CONSTRUCTION, INSTALLATION and servicing of Foucault pendulums across the Nation continues to be a unique service offered by the Academy. Recently, Alvin C. Gundred, Superintendent in the Instrument Shop, journeyed east to five different localities to change the former electronic drive systems to our re-designed electronics and circuit switch systems—an improvement which evolved in the Shop. Mr. Gundred's revisions were made at Macalester College, St. Paul, Minnesota, the Indianapolis State Museum, and Edinboro, Clarion and Kutztown State Colleges in Pennsylvania.

MEET THE STAFF



OLIVE T. LUCICH, Assistant Bookkeeper for the Academy's administrative offices, is a native San Franciscan and has many pleasant memories of the CAS as a child. Her family lived nearby and there was scarcely a Sunday passed when a visit was not paid to the concerts in the Band Concourse with an after-trip to view the wonders that were offered by Steinhart Aquarium and the adjacent halls.

She attended various schools in San Francisco, including both a business college and a beauty school. She was interested in acting too and performed, not only with local amateur groups (and coached a drama club) but had one year of professional training at the Pasadena Playhouse in southern California.

Olive was married shortly thereafter and served not only as wife but bookkeeper, secretary and receptionist to her husband who was an insurance broker. The Lucichs had two daughters, Barbara and Judith,

now grown, who have in turn made her the grandmother of two. After the dissolution of this marriage, she was employed at San Francisco's Furniture Mart, then with an investment brokerage house, which was followed by a session of eight years as statistician with the State Bar of California. She left this last position in early 1963 and later, in October, took up her present duties at the Academy. The prompt payment of Academy obligations is her principle duty and with our many activities you can readily see that her days are filled.

She is an avid reader, and with her present husband, Leonard, enjoys ballet and the legitimate theatre.

MISCELLANEA: It is not too late for young persons to enjoy the courses in Summertime Science being offered by the Junior Academy. Registration is June 19 through 21. Consult the May 1968 NEWSLETTER for details, or telephone the Junior Academy at 221-5100, Extension 21, for further information . . . The Western Zoo Conference, meeting in San Francisco, toured Steinhart Aquarium on April 10 . . . During the five days of the 1968 Bay Area Science Fair held at the Academy, 38,611 visitors came to view the wide variety of exhibits prepared by northern California's precocious science students.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY

Regular Membership

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